Information Sheet

## Project Title: Agricultural Science Teaching Tool Interface Evaluation

You have been asked to participate in the evaluation of a computer program that is being developed to promote sustainability education in the agricultural sciences. The program represents a simulated farm based on the ecology of the Otago/Southland region of New Zealand. Users of the program are able to modify various aspects of farm management and observe the results on the condition of the farm land, water and stock. The purpose of the current to study is to evaluate the design of the software interface. It is not intended to evaluate user behaviour or performance in any way. You will be asked to perform various tasks with the simulation program, and your interaction with the program interface will be observed. The experimenter will take notes about how you use the program.

Some personal data – your age, gender, level of computer experience and level of existing agricultural knowledge– will be associated with the task materials. However, neither your name (nor any other identifiable data such as student ID number) will be retained or made available to anyone outside of this institution. All data gathered will be used solely for the purposes of this research project.

If you have any questions about this research, you may contact *Ashley Evans* at *evansaa1@student.op.ac.nz AND OR 0278250456*.

Participation in this study is **completely** voluntary. If you choose not to participate in this study, there will be **NO** penalty. In addition, if you agree to participate in the study, and later change your mind, you may withdraw at any time, including during an experimental task, again with **NO** penalty. You need not give any reason for your withdrawal.

After you have completed all the experimental tasks, the experimenter will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the study. You may also request a copy of any publications based on these data, if you so wish.

**Participant Consent Form**

**Project Title: Factors** Agricultural Science Teaching Tool Interface Evaluation

I have read the information sheet concerning this project and understand what it is about. All my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that I am free to request further information at any stage.

I know that:

* My participation in the project is entirely voluntary.
* I am free to withdraw at any time without giving reasons and without any disadvantage.
* Other than demographic data, no identifying information about me is being recorded.
* The results of the project may be published and/or used at a presentation in an academic conference but my anonymity will be preserved.

I agree to take part in this project under the conditions set out in the Information Sheet.

……………………………………………(signature of participant)

……………………………………………(date)

……………………………………………(signature of researcher)

……………………………………………(date)

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Otago Polytechnic Ethics Committee.